

Benjamin Banneker Property Organizational Meeting, Fieldnotes. Persons in attendance, Charles Wagandt, Dr. Silvio Bedini, John McGrain, Wayne Clark, Susan Saunders. Notes recorded by Wayne Clark, Maryland Historical Trust, ~~August~~ <sup>October</sup> 1982.

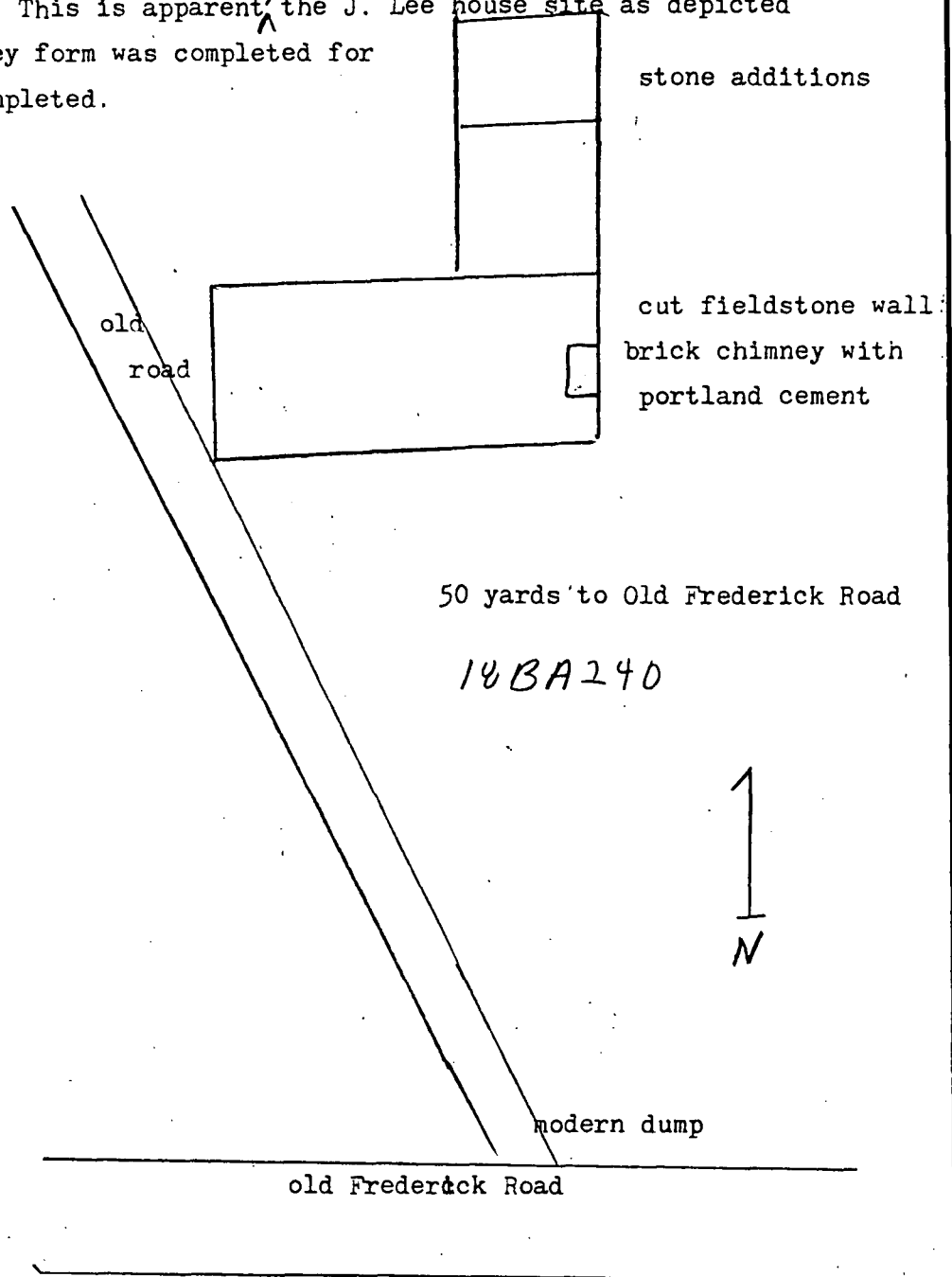
The meeting was called by Charles Wagandt in response to a report that the Truett and Bryan families were planning on the sale of the property for a possible housing development. John McGrain brought historical maps and the results of his boundary research which provided data not available at the time of Bedini study which resulted in his historical book on the life of Benjamin Banneker. Susan Saunders provided information on local oral tradition and provided the location of one of the sites reported by her uncle. The day was spent reviewing possible locations for the house site and three sites were visited; one reported by Susan Saunders, one by an informant to Charles Wagandt, and one by ~~Bedini~~ Silvio Bedini. All three sites were visited but none proved to be the house site of Banneker.

According to Bedini, Banneker's father purchased the property in 1736. His father was a free black who had a free black father and a white mother. Willey Marye was involved in early search for Banneker according to John McGrain. John McGrain sent a copy of his article which updates the boundary of the Banneker tract. According to Susan Tucker, her father, Mr. Tucker reported the ~~grave yard~~ grave yard was behind the slaughter pen, back in the woods. Ed Winn told Susan Tuckers father that Bannekers grave site was ~~here~~ in this area, located on the old Wayne Heiner property (Hull cemetery). According to Bedini, Banneker had a view of the Patapsco River from his house. <sup>the</sup> house was within one mile of River which is true as entire tract falls within one mile radius of the river. According to Susan Saunders, her mother took her back to the area of the cemetery when she was a child but she could not remember the location now. She also reported that George Ridout (deceased 1981), pointed out the location and claimed his information was passed through the family. He was 90 years old when he died. Ridout reported that the house was located 50 yards north of Old Frederick Road where <sup>he found</sup> ~~was~~ the remains of a house foundation and a grave. The grave yard associated with this foundation contains remains of Susan's great grandmother (1 unmarked stone grave). McGrain stated that Old Frederick road <sup>was</sup> laid out in early 1700's. Wagandt thought the cemetery was near the Truitt mansion but Susan disagreed. Bedini stated that the graveyard was in sight of Banneker house which was in sight of river.

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Bedini stated that the grave of Banneker was located a few yards northwest of the house which burn to the ground the day he was buried. In 1845 a deligation visited the site and noted that only a shallow depression remained where the house once stood. The house was of log construction with stone hearth. 2 tulip trees and a ~~maple~~ popular tree stood next to house. He had an orchard near the house. One pear tree was still present at Oella Ave in 1960 during <sup>the</sup> Badini survey.

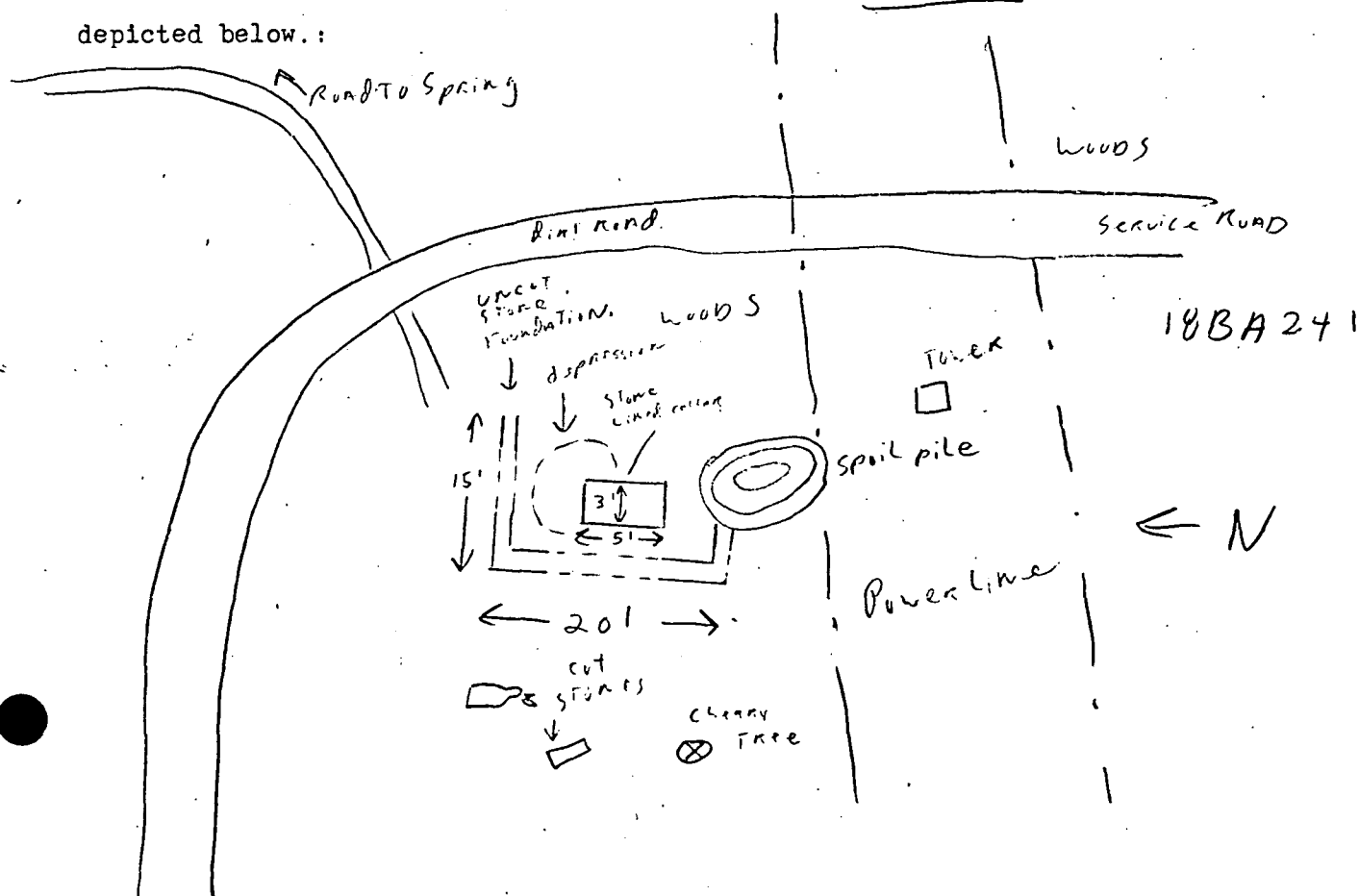
Following up on Susan Saunders lead, we walked <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ area of reported site no 1 on south side of property and found stone foundation at 50 yards in from road as reported by Ridout. Burnt blue bottle class, probably Rumford bottle, found adjacent to foundation. This is apparent<sup>ly</sup> the J. Lee house site as depicted on the 1877 atlas. Site survey form was completed for this site after survey was completed.



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Bedini reported that the commonplace book said Banneker promised Ellicott brothers his land after his death in exchange for purchase of goods at Ellicott stone. Banneker had a garden and poorly furnished house.

Charles Wagandt reported that Jay William Truit III (788-6319) reported a house site on the western end of the knolls along Cooper Branch located where the access road to the Powerlines cross the powerlines. We parked the car at the base of the hill and walked up the access road until crossing the powerlines. There on the east side of the powerline we found the foundations mentioned by Truit which had a view of the river. The foundations were wooded, had a fieldstone foundation of uncut stone only 20 feet from edge of powerline clearing and equal distance from road. I recorded the dimensions of this building and noted a small stone lined root cellar off to one side of the interior of the structure. I also followed a road to the east which lead down to a spring head, artifacts around the spring head included whiteware and mason jars, indicating a late 19th century date of occupation. This site corresponds to the P. Giggons estate noted on the 1877 atlas and is located on Zephyr hill as defined in the 1877 atlas. It falls outside of the Banneker property boundary and would have not been the location of the Banneker house site for that and the other reasons stated. Site number 2 dimensions are depicted below.:



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Site number 2, the Gibbons site, was located on the Bryan property.

According to Bedini, the best location for house site or that is the best candidate was located behind the slaughter house in a wooded area.

According to Vernon Truit, one wall was still standing when he was a child about 50 years ago (reported by Mrs Truit). The site was located 50 feet northwest of the cattle pen. Bedini received report that house was occupied by former slave, Carol Burn. The small house was of frame

18BA.

construction. Bedini though site contained a stone hearth when he visited it in 1960s and his photos confirm this, <sup>This</sup> ~~last~~ day revealed that his area had been extensively disturbed by extension of slaughter house, bulldozing of hill side, and construction of manure pond. (subsequent survey revealed that the house site had indeed been bulldozed and destroyed). The stone wall associated with the house was still present. If this area also contained cemetery as earlier reported, it also would have been destroyed by recent construction. According to Bedini, local legend stated that after revolutionary war a free slave lived there and <sup>house</sup> was burnt in fire.

The last site visited was the reported house of Jacob Hall, reported by Susan Saunders. The house is across the Cooper Branch from the slaughter house, is 12 by 15 feet in area with a stone hearth at one wall and two story with clapboard siding, uncut fieldstone foundation, dry laid, looks same as the house shown in photographs provided by Bedini of site no 3 which was destroyed. The 1877 atlas does not show house in this area. This ended the survey effort for this day with inconclusive results but with promises of exchange of material which was later accomplished. Subsequent to this one day meeting, Richard Hughes and Wayne Clark conducted a one day survey of the entire tract with additional data provided on site No. 3 but no new site found. End of fieldnotes.

18BA.

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Benjamin Banneker Property Initial site Reconnaissance, fieldnotes summation. Persons conducting the survey; Wayne Clakk and Richard Hughes. Recorded by Wayne Clark, Maryland Historical Trust, December 1, 1982. Survey Conducted November 11, 1982.

The survey consisted of a walkover and limited shovel test pitting of the areas of highest probability within the Banneker property boundaries as defined by John McGrains study (1976). A ~~xx~~ number of factors were used to determine the area to be looked at which are discussed in the proposal written for additional survey (Clark 1982). The survey looked at the Bryan and Trueth portions of the property. The survey area was divided into six knolls and the streams were numbered sequentially with stream number one ~~xxx~~ located next to Oella Avenue and stream number 6 located on the western portion of the property (see map). A field survey form were filled out for the knolls which noted the nature of the area encountered. The results of the survey are summarized below on the basis of the notes and memory. The Banneker house site was not found and the one reported site within the tract was determined to date to the late 19th century.

Knoll 11: The survey started out in the eastern part of the property. Site number ~~xx~~ 3 reported as a result of the organizational meeting was revisited. Photographs of the stone foundation of the house on this knoll as provided by Bedini proved most useful. ~~Thax~~ From the photographs the exact location of the house could be determined. This spot today consisted of a bulldozed pile of stones which were all that remained of the foundation. These were grey fieldstones. Only one hand made brick was noted. The area around the foundation had been extensively bulldozed with only perhaps a 20 ~~6ex~~ foot area containing any hope of partly undisturbed deposits. A surface collection was made of the exposed area which produced mostly whiteware. The split tree noted in Bedini photos was still present. Most of this site had been destroyed by bulldozing, pond construction and cattle ~~xxxx~~ stall extension (18 Ba 242). However, the northern portion of the knoll was still wooded, had an old barb wire fence line and also had part of a stone fence line. Four shovel test ~~xxx~~ pits were excavated between the fill area and the fence and these test pits yielded whiteware and nails, etc. directly to the west along the same fence line the hill begins to drop off but an obvious garden area represented by a contour flat area was noted. Test pits were excavated in this area with similar artifacts recovered. (Stp 5-6). The soil in this area extends at least 54 cm and should be additionally tested to see if any 18th century remains are present. One test pit was conducted in the flat area adjacent to stream 2 with negative results (stp 7). The area to the ~~xx~~ south of the destruction zone was surface surveyed and the path walked but with negative results. Artifacts from the test pits, which were screened, were saved and are cataloged at the Maryland Trust.

Knoll 2; A historic road bisects this area along with modern trails. Both modern trails and the road were walked with no artifacts found. This slope which is adjacent to Cooper Branch was an orchard in the 20th century and the historic road shows up on the 1876 atlas. The house located on the knoll on the west portion of this area has extensive landscaping which would have disturbed the archeological remains. The owner who has lived in the house for 30 years, reports that artifacts were not found in the garden area which is still

visible to the northeast of the house. The historic road is ~~xxxxxx~~ incised and

therefore readily findable. The bottomlands at the base of the knoll are outside the property boundary and would have been very low lying. This area is currently in grass and woods and was not tested. No test pits were excavated in this area of the section. BUT latter in the day, the western edge next to the stream was walked with negative results. Test showed a possible plowzone in this area.

Knoll 3; located between stream 4 and 5, this knoll was tested by at least 10 test pits running up the spine of the knoll. A few white ware shoerds were noted and one clear class (STP 5-7). The portion of the knoll closer to cooper branch was sterile as was the road which bisected this part of the knoll. An old road apparently ran on the west side of stream 4 which was walked to its headwater. No obvious springs were found until the head the stream was found and a stone lined spring head was found in this low lying area. the hillside on this section of the knoll did not contain obvious paths leading to the spring but the area was not extensively walked. It was noted that an old road also ran along the area ~~xxx~~ northeast of stream 5. The center of this knoll was heavily overgrown. Three shovel test pits were excavated in the area between the ~~xxxxxx~~ waste water treatment access road and the cooper branch. This area contains a portion of the base of the knoll with the area adjacent to the road covered with spoil. Testing on the undisturbed portions of the knoll was negative. However, at the base of the knoll was a depression with a stone lined wall running along the hillside side of the ditch. This may have been a spring head at one time but construction of the wastewater treatment plant destroyed the western extension of the ditch.

Knoll 4: located between stream 5 and 6, this knoll marks the portion of the property which is heavily incised. The knoll slopes drop off rather steeply to the stream. Three shovel test pits were excavated at the northern extension of the knoll with negative results. Shovel test pits further up the spine revealed oyster shell and artifacts from a 20th century dump, parts of which are still visible on the surface of the leave covered ground. This area is in woods. The slopes were checked for evidence of trails and none were found on the west side although a slight trail was noted on the side adjacent to Coopers branch.

Knoll 5: Was not surveyed as it was very hilly and falls within the portion of the property sold by Banneker in his lifetime. The area sloping upward from stream 6 is steep. at the base of stream 6 is a low lying marsh area which probably was the area where Banneker got his bog for his tobacco beds.

Knoll 6: This area is located on the north side of Coopers Branch and is where the stream takes a sharp bend before resuming ~~xxx~~ its course. The knoll overlooks the wastewater treatment plant. Modern steps lead up the knoll which predate the treatment plant. Examination of surfaces on top of the knoll failed to reveal any remains.

~~xxxxxx~~ The fieldnotes of the survey are attached to this summary.

FIELD SURVEY FORM  
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

FIELD DATE: 11/11/92

NUMBER OF SITES FOUND: 1

COUNTY: BA

Banneker survey

OWNER: Treoth

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP: Ellicott City

PLOT NUMBER: 5331-487

FIELD NUMBER: K-1

GROUND COVER:

Woods, pasture, yard, beach, cliff face,  
New planted : corn, wheat, soy bean, other( )  
Mature : " " " "  
harvested : " " " "

EXPOSED GROUND (percent): 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

WASH CONDITIONS: Excellent, good, poor, none

COLLECTION METHOD: Grid:

Size of units:

Exact provenience: Alidade, tape, pace, \_\_\_\_\_.

Random STP

PHOTOGRAPHED: None

B \$ W

Color slide

MAPPED: yes, no.

COMMENTS:

Knoll bulldozed for intertidal factory & water trap /  
nature pond.

site #3, Badami house, located by reference to pictures,  
house site was bulldozed and destroyed, pile of rocks  
still present for foundation, 1. hand made brick 4 1/2" wide, 2" thick  
1 axe head not saved.

RECORDER: Clark

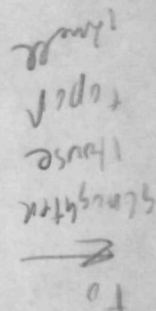
SURVEYORS: " R. Hughes

NOTE: (Use back of sheet for field map, artifact drawings, and additional comments).

map 1



Bancker Survey.  
Knot #1 Ball. Co  
Ellicott City, Quid  
Copper Base N





Bambers Knoll 2 II, has road across entire  
top of hill leading to west parking house, out onto  
hill side. no likely areas, streams dry.  
walk over survey of area, not shovel tested

Road went out to Oella Ave, older Mr Trueth went  
out to Oella Ave. Mr. Trueth said it  
orchard in 40-50's, so grew up. no artifacts  
in garden. area of house destroyed

## SHOVEL TEST PIT FORM

Baneke Run

COUNTY:

BA

DATE:

11/11/82

PAGE—OF—

PLOT NO.

—

FIELD NO.

K-1

TRANSECT NO.—

SURVEYOR

Chad

RECORDER

Chad

SCREEN SIZE:  $\frac{A}{4}$   $\frac{1}{2}$ 

GRID

COORDINATE

PROFILE DESCRIPTION

ARTIFACTS

STP 1

0-24 cm uniform plumb line  
yellow clay subsoilyes  
saved.

STP 2

Same as STP 1. STONEWARE, BATHON, IRON  
Object

Yes. Saved

STP 3

0-26 cm, same as above

whiteware

STP 4

5' east of stone pile and large bulge there  
stone pile declines and wall1 blue-green bottle  
glass fragment

STP 5

on flat near east bank  
subsoil ca. 35cmWhiteware (blue  
transfer printed)  
stoneware,  
Redware, Iron  
Object

STP 6

on flat near hill edge edge to stream  
0-24 cm = Brown loam & charcoal  
28-54 cm = yellow light brown sandy  
soil, subsoil not found

2 saved

STP 7

Flat area. 36 cm deep  
2 mounds, ~~low~~, 1 clear dunenot  
saved

Field date: 11/11/42

Number of sites found: \_\_\_\_\_

County: BA

Research Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded on: STP form

Plot number: ~~K-2~~ 5331-887

Field number: K-3

Ground cover:

Woods, pasture, yard, beach, cliff face, stream bank, road shoulder  
New planted: corn, wheat, soybean, other ( )  
Mature : " " " " ( )  
Harvested : " " " " ( )

Exposed ground (percent): 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Wash conditions: Excellent, good, poor, none

Collection method:

Grid:

Size of units:

Exact provenience:

Alidade, tape, pace, \_\_\_\_\_

Random walk, no STP  
Shovel test

Photographed: None

B & W

Color slide

Mapped: yes

no

Comments:

Walked over surface, found old road which  
in existence at least 40 years according to Mrs.  
Smith who lives on Harrison site, House on Top  
of hill very destructive of surface.  
Smith report orchard - garden but no  
artifact found.

Recorded by:

Clair

Surveyors:

Clair R. Hughes

Note: Use back of sheet for field map, artifact drawings, and additional comments.  
Attach copy of USGS quadrangle map showing location of unit.

Map 2

Field date: 11.11.82

Number of sites found: \_\_\_\_\_

County: BALTIMORE

Research Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Recorded on: \_\_\_\_\_

Plot number: 5331-887

Field number: K-3

Ground cover:

Woods, pasture, yard, beach, cliff face, stream bank, road shoulder  
New planted: corn, wheat, soybean, other ( )  
Mature : " " " " ( )  
Harvested : " " " " ( )

Exposed ground (percent): 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

Wash conditions: Excellent, good, poor, none

Collection method: Grid: \_\_\_\_\_ Size of units: \_\_\_\_\_  
Exact provenience: Alidade, tape, pace, \_\_\_\_\_  
Random  
Shovel test

Photographed: None B & W Color slide

Mapped: yes no

Comments: Area is a knoll near stream. Part of knoll  
bisected by road leading to sewer treatment plant.

Recorded by:

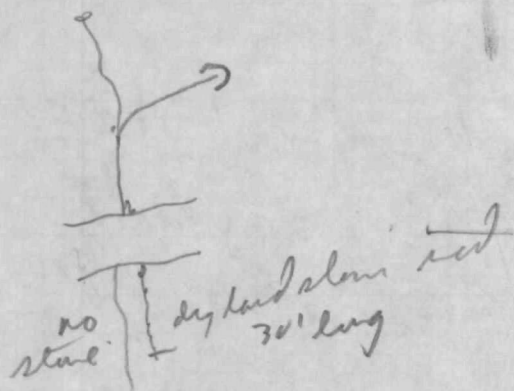
Surveyors: RBH/WEC

Note: Use back of sheet for field map, artifact drawings, and additional comments.  
Attach copy of USGS quadrangle map showing location of unit.

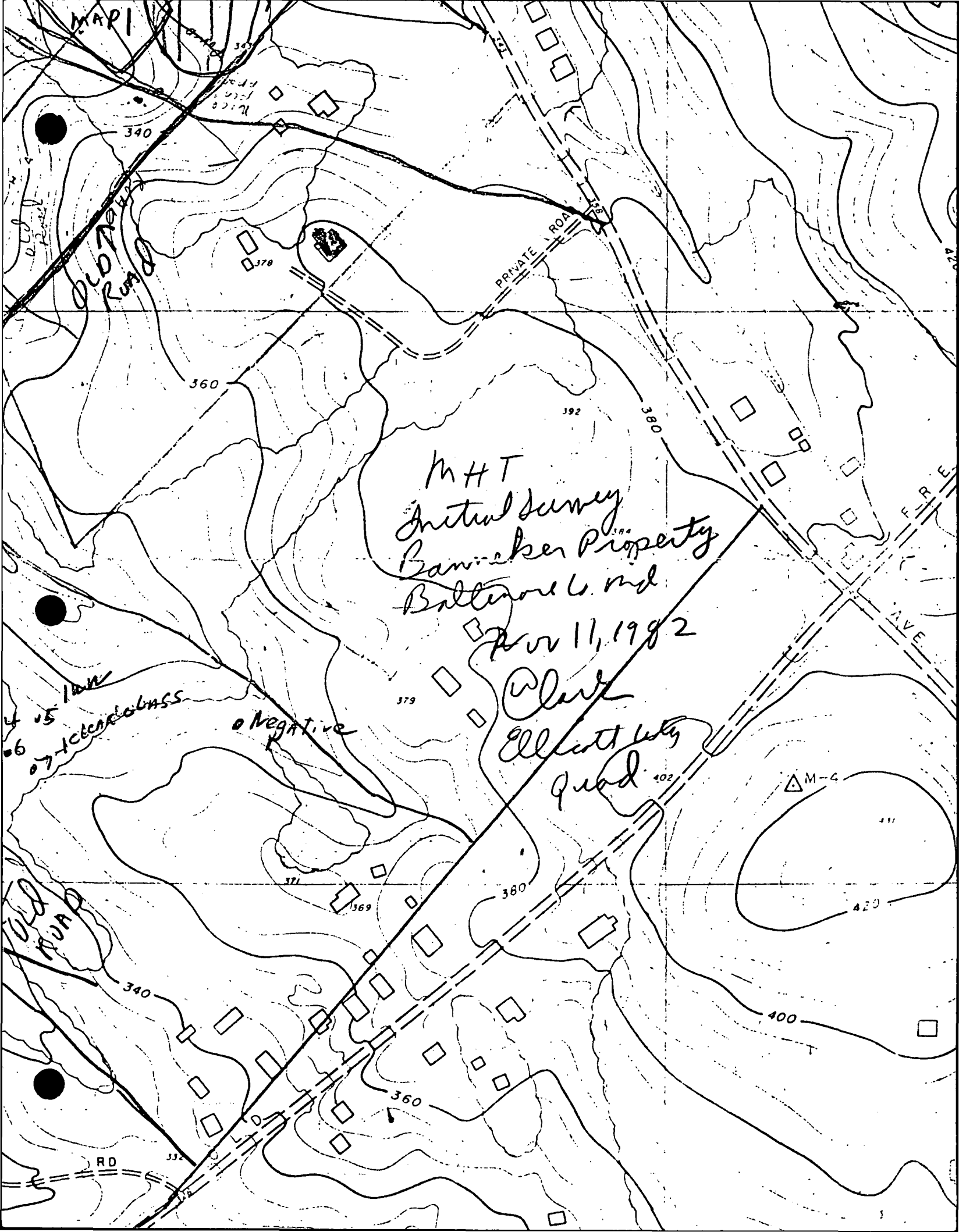


K-3 walked down stream on east side of  
bank still active in upper part  
bed rd 1, 2 moved over, little key. played 3/10/04

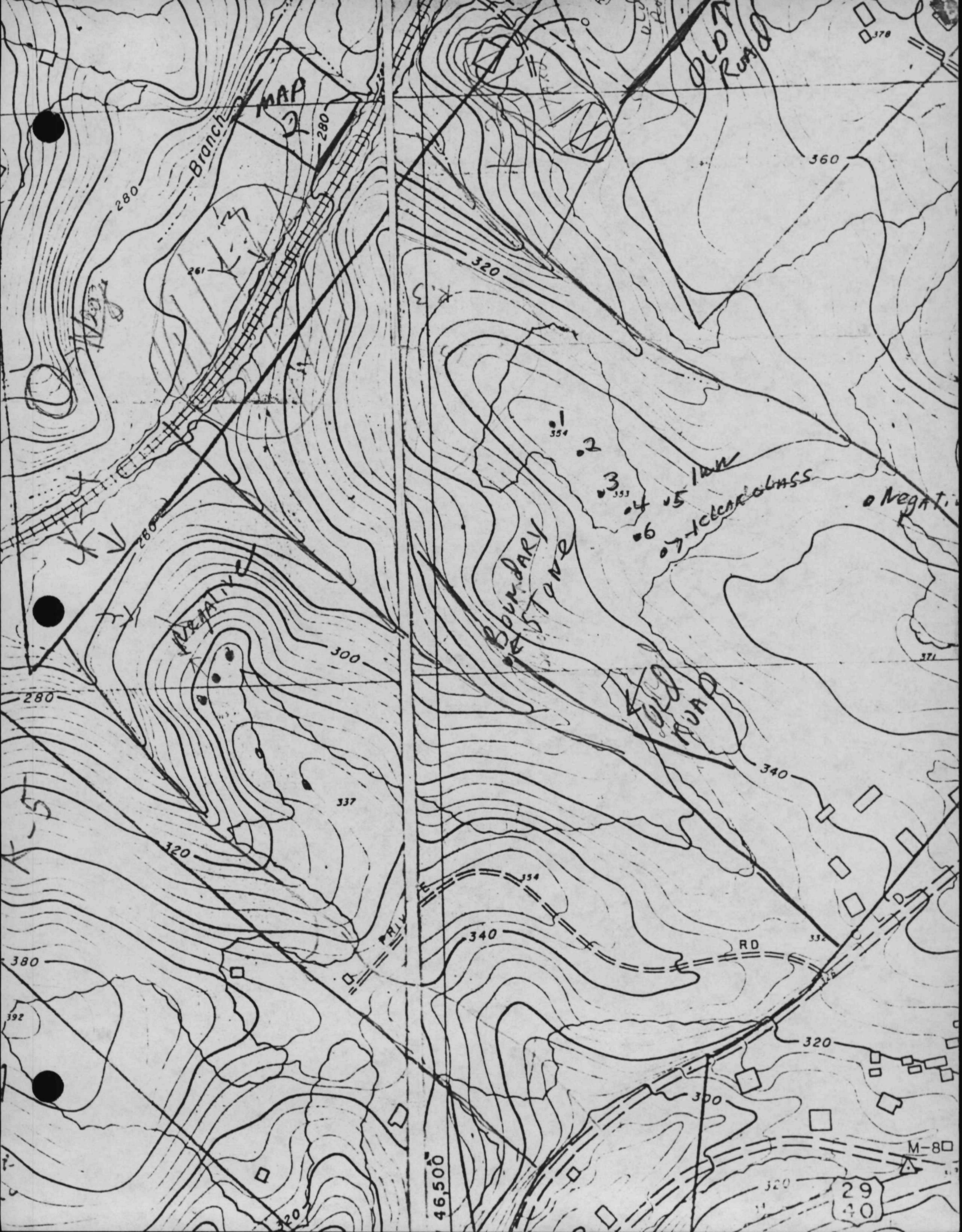
K-4'. Found boundary stone on east side of  
stream, granite upright at foot in Brand  
1 small in gully on artificial hill. JE 13  
probably. old road

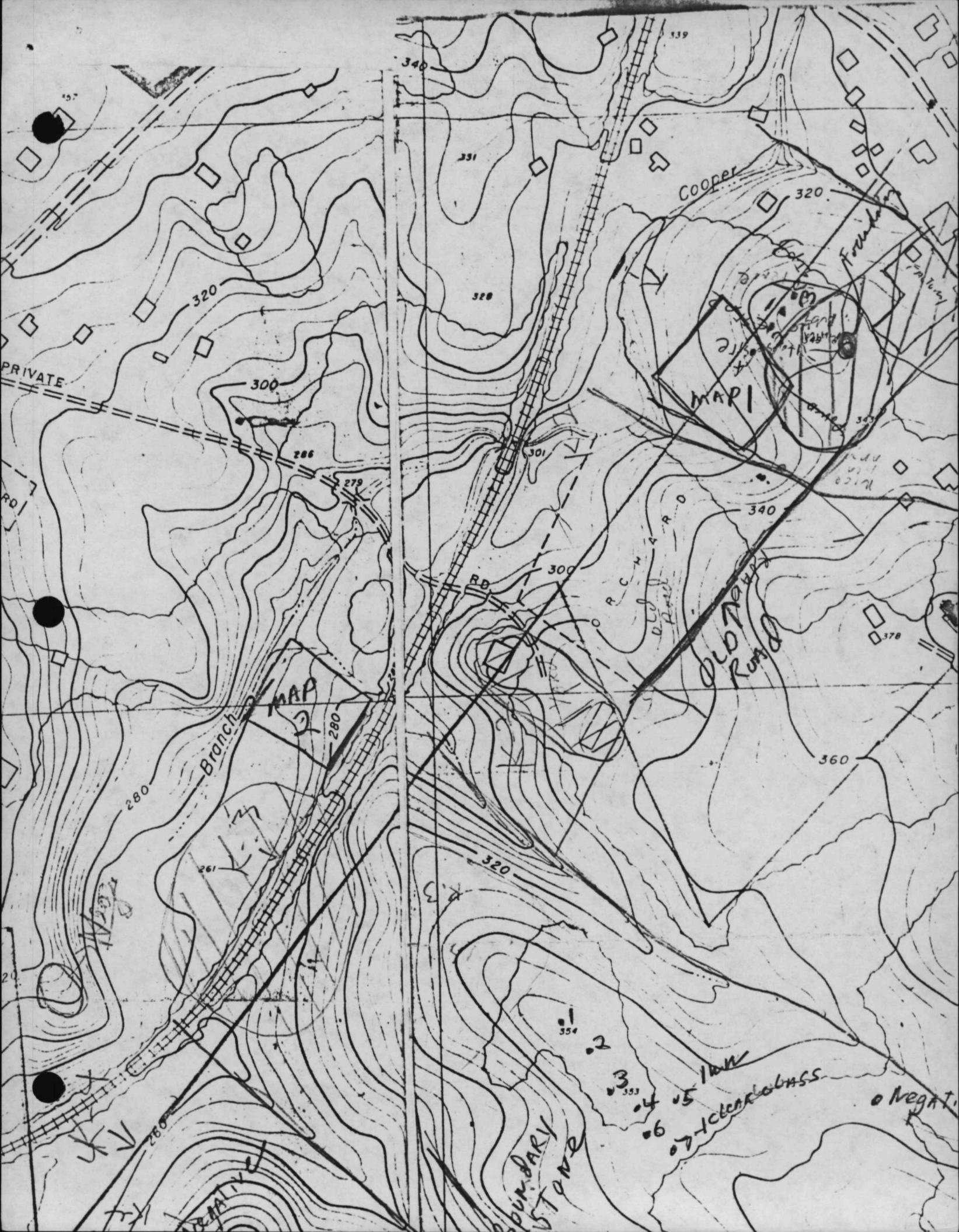












PRIVATE

Cooper

Foundry

MAP 1

MAP 2

Old Road

R C H 4 R D

Boundary Stone

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
clearance

Negat.